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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE  
**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**  
for Year 1946

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**RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.**



# Lichfield Rural District Council

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RURAL COUNCIL HOUSE,  
LICHFIELD,

August 25th, 1947

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the District during 1946.

I am gratified to be able to say that the Report is a most satisfactory one, comparing most favourably with the figures for the whole country.

The Death Rate for the year was 9·2 per 1,000 of the population which so far as I can trace establishes a new record for the District, comparing with 10·0 for 1945 and 11·5 for the country as a whole during 1946.

Another factor which gives rise to much satisfaction is the position relating to Diphtheria. Since the inception of the immunisation campaign some years ago the statistics relative to this disease have shown marked improvement and the past year proves no exception to this. A total of only four cases was notified. Quite obviously the campaign just mentioned is one of the outstanding successes of public health activity during recent years, and it is greatly to be regretted that some parents still deprive their children of this safeguard against one of the most serious of the infectious diseases.

I would like to thank the members of the Council for their consideration and help during the course of the year, the staff of the Public Health department for their loyalty and good service, and the other Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RONALD E. JOHNSON.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

## Public Health Officers of the Authority

### Medical Officer of Health—

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.

### Senior Sanitary Inspector—

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A. (resigned 30/9/46)

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/10/46)

### Additional Sanitary Inspector—

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A. (appointed (3/4/45)

### Pupil Sanitary Inspectors—

K. BLOWER

R. W. DERRY (resigned Nov., 1946)

(both on Active Service for part of year)

### Engineer and Surveyor—

J. G. RIMAND, M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.

### Clerk to the District Council—

G. K. PULLEN

### Medical Officer of the Wissage Isolation Hospital—

DR. R. E. JOHNSON, Lichfield

Matron—MISS WIMSHURST

### Tuberculosis Officer—

DR. A. H. PARKINSON, Stafford

(appointed by County Tuberculosis Joint Committee)



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	83,715
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1946. ... ..	33,790
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books ... ..	8,760
Rateable Value, 1st October, 1946 ... ..	£175,388
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£690

The Lichfield Rural District, in the County of Stafford, surrounds completely the ancient city of Lichfield. On its East and South sides it is bounded by the Counties of Derby, Leicester and Warwick. The North and West sides are bounded by the County of Stafford comprising the following county districts in order from the North : Tutbury Rural, Uttoxeter Rural, Stafford Rural, Rugeley Urban, Cannock Urban, Brownhills Urban and Aldridge Urban.

The district is in the main devoted to agriculture. A considerable portion forms part of the valley of the Trent and its large tributary, the Tame. Along the river valley the land is flat—between the 200 and 300 contour level—rising on the West side to an altitude of nearly 700 feet in the parish of Brindley Heath, part of Cannock Chase. The Western section contains coal seams and there is a considerable mining population. There are pottery works in Armitage and tape mills in Fazeley. The parish of Shenstone is largely residential, but several industrial concerns have recently become established there.

The soil on the whole is light and porous with a subsoil of gravel or marl and a few islands of clay. In the Cannock Chase district there is a thin layer of peat lying upon gravel and sand, a relic of the old Cannock Chase forest.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

					Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population
Live Births—					
		Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	...	591	284	307	19·4
Illegitimate	...	40	22	18	
Total	...	631	306	325	
Still-Births	...	25	13	12	

					Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Resident Populat'n
Deaths	...	312	154	158	9·2

### Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	Nil

### Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	45·9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	3

### Vital Statistics of District for the last 10 years.

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1937	31680	15·78	11·11	44·0
1938	32210	16·67	10·46	46·5
1939	No Annual Report issued			
1940	No Annual Report issued			
1941	32000	17·1	11·6	50·0
1942	32000	18·7	9·5	37·2
1943	32000	17·7	10·4	45·3
1944	32760	19·14	10·13	38·1
1945	32710	19·04	10·0	48·0
1946	33790	19·4	9·2	45·9
England and Wales—				
1946	...	19·1	11·5	43·0

## District Medical Officers.

### Staffordshire Public Assistance Committee.

Name of Medical Relief District	Parishes	District Medical Officer
Alrewas	Alrewas Elford Edingale Harlaston	DR. A. DE LA C. RUSSIAN Ern Lodge, Alrewas.
St. Chad's	Streethay Whittington Fisherwick Swinfen & Packington Weeford	DR. R. E. JOHNSON, West Gate Cottage, Lichfield.
Shenstone	Shenstone (part) Wall	DR. G. J. G. DAVIDSON, Old College House, Dam Street, Lichfield.
Rugeley	Colton Mavesyn Ridware Longdon Armitage-w-Handsacre Brindley Heath	DR. L. D. ROBERTS, May Bank, Rugeley.
Ogley Hay	Farewell and Chorley Burntwood Hammerwich Shenstone (part)	DR. J. W. POOLEY, Nunswell House, Boney Hay, Burntwood, Lichfield.
Yoxall	Hamstall Ridware Kings Bromley	DR. C. J. ARMSON, Brook House, Yoxall.
Tamworth	Wigginton Thorpe Constantine (part)	DR. A. J. McKENDRICK, 11 Aldergate, Tamworth.
Clifton Campville	Clifton Campville Thorpe Constantine (part)	DR. J. R. SALMOND, Lindores, Appleby Magna.
Fazeley and Canwell	Hints Fazeley Drayton Bassett Canwell	DR. W. C. PYPER, Fazeley.

**Causes of Death in the Rural District of Lichfield  
during the year 1946.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males.	Females.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever .....	...	...
4	Whooping Cough .....	...	1
5	Diphtheria.....	1	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	3	8
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	2	...
8	Syphylitic Diseases .....	1	...
9	Influenza .....	1	...
10	Measles .....	...	...
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis .....	...	...
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	...	...
13	Cancer .....	14	29
14	Diabetes .....	3	...
15	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .....	15	25
16	Heart Disease .....	35	36
17	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	7	8
18	Bronchitis ..	14	6
19	Pneumonia .....	9	4
20	Other respiratory diseases .....	3	2
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	5	...
22	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	2	1
23	Appendicitis .....	...	...
24	Other digestive diseases .....	1	1
25	Nephritis .....	2	2
26	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis .....	...	1
27	Other Maternal causes.....	...	...
28	Premature Birth .....	2	3
29	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, etc.....	9	2
30	Suicide .....	1	...
31	Road Traffic Accidents .....	7	1
32	Other violent causes .....	2	3
33	All other causes .....	15	25
TOTALS ...		154	158



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

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### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Staffordshire County Council provide first-class Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories at Stafford, which are placed at the service of Medical Practitioners, Hospitals and Local Authorities free of charge.

A tabulated list of the work carried out during 1946 is given below.

#### Swabs sent for Diphtheria Bacillus—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Throat—			
From Practitioners ...	5	71	76
From Isolation Hospital	12	111	123
Nose—			
From Practitioners ...	—	5	5
From Isolation Hospital	9	119	128
Ear—			
From Isolation Hospital	—	2	2

#### Other Specimens—

	Fit	Unfit	Total
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus	3	14	17
Blood ... ..	—	1	1
Pus ... ..	—	2	2
Faeces ... ..	—	10	10
Cerebro Spinal Fluid ...	1	2	3
Urine ... ..	—	1	1
Ulcer ... ..	1	—	1

#### Samples of Water—

Chemical Examination ...	2	2	4
Bacteriological Examination ...	2	2	4

## NURSING IN THE HOME.

The following Nursing Associations work in the Lichfield Rural District and are affiliated to the Staffordshire Nursing Association.

<i>Association</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
<b>ARMITAGE—</b> Nurse Lovatt, S.R.N., S.C.M.	Mrs. Femton, Waverley, Hood Lane, Armitage.
<b>ALREWAS—</b> Nurse Cluley, S.C.M.	Mrs. Shemmonds, Byfields, Furlong Lane, Alrewas.
<b>CHASETOWN—</b> Queen's Nurse Beeston, S.C.M. Queen's Nurse Parker, S.C.M. Queen's Nurse Starkey, S.C.M.	H. Milton Lees, Esq., Malvern House, Chase Terrace, Walsall.
<b>ELFORD and THORPE—</b> Queen's Nurse Weatherer, S.C.M.	F. Lawson, Esq., Fisherwick Park Farm, Nr. Lichfield.
<b>FAZELEY—</b> Nurse F. Statham, S.C.M.	Mrs Ridsdale, Fazeley, Tamworth.
<b>HINTS and WEEFORD—</b> Nurse Durber, S.C.M.	Mrs Bourne, Bourne House, Weeford, Lichfield.
<b>SHENSTONE and STONNALL—</b> Nurse Spragghet, S.C.M. (temporary)	Mrs. Boyce, St. John's Hill, Shenstone.
<b>STREETLY and LITTLE ASTON—</b> Queen's Nurse Dalton, S.C.M. Nurse Gomm, S.R.N., S.C.M. Nurse Courtly, S.R.N., S.C.M.	Mrs. Sherwood, 14 Hardwick Road, Streetly.
<b>WHITTINGTON—</b> Nurse Darby, S.C.M.	Mrs. Inge, Broom Leasoe, Whittington.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following Clinics and Treatment Centres are in operation in the area :—

### Infants' Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics

*Alrewas .....	Oddfellows' Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	2—5 p.m.
Armitage .....	Primitive Methodist Temple	Tuesdays fortnightly	1-30—5 p.m.
Chasetown ...	Social Institute	Wednesdays weekly Fri. fortnightly	1-30—5 p.m. 9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m.
*Fazeley .....	Victoria Memorial Hall	Mondays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
*Whittington	Girls' Club	3rd Thursday	2—5 p.m.

These are all conducted by the Staffordshire County Council.

\* Infant Welfare Centres only.

### School Clinics.

ONE—Chase Terrace.

Nurse attends weekly—Tuesdays, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Doctor monthly

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

Since the compilation of my last full annual report for 1938, the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board arrangements for isolation and treatment of infectious disease cases have commenced in this district.

The Board was constituted by the Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital District) Act, 1938 which was promoted by ten of the Constituent Authorities. The appointed day was October 1st, 1938 and the first meeting of the Board was held on January 26th, 1939.

The United District has an area of approximately 543 square miles, a population of 230,000 and a rateable value of over £1,000,000.

It has not yet been possible to erect a central hospital and the isolation facilities are at present situated at the Wissage Hospital, Lichfield which was opened in September 1941, the Cheslyn Hay Isolation Hospital, near Cannock, also taken over in 1941, and the Tithe Barn Hospital, Stafford which was opened in 1942.

The Constituting Act places an obligation on the Board to provide hospital accommodation for persons in the Constituting Districts who are suffering from infectious diseases other than smallpox. About 131 beds are available in the three hospitals for varying types of disease, and arrangements are in being with seven adjoining Councils to admit patients from the United District when this becomes necessary in an emergency. The number of beds available therefore is very large.

The Board pays the cost of hospital treatment and also meets the expense of conveyance of patients to and from hospital, this being carried out in an ambulance owned and operated by the Board. The Staffordshire County Council make grants under the Public Health Act, 1936 towards the cost of maintaining the three hospitals.

The Rural District Council has four representatives on the Joint Hospital Board.

### **Smallpox Hospital.**

The hospital for the treatment of smallpox patients is situated at Moxley, in the Bilston Urban District. The hospital is operated by the Smallpox Hospital Joint Board for South Staffordshire on which Board the District Council has two representatives.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The following County Institutions are available for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

County Sanatorium, Prestwood House, Kingswinford.

Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital, Kinver.

Groundslow House Sanatorium, Tittensor.

Yarnfield Isolation Hospital, Nr. Stone.

Children's Sanatorium, The Limes, Himley.

Standon Hall, Orthopaedic Hospital, Eccleshall.

These are maintained by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee.



### **The Public Assistance Institution.**

This is situated in the City of Lichfield.

### **General Hospital Accommodation.**

There are two local Voluntary Hospitals used by people in the rural district viz., the Victoria Hospital, Lichfield, and the Hammerwich Cottage Hospital, Nr. Lichfield. Hospitals also available for people in this area are at Birmingham, Walsall, Stafford, Wolverhampton and Burton.

## **PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**Diphtheria.**—The immunisation campaign has progressed fairly well during the year under review, but as I said in the introduction to this report it is greatly to be regretted that so many children are still denied the benefits of this protection.

The estimated mid-year population of children in the area under 15 years of age was 7,800 and of these 4,464 had been immunised at the end of the year. The age groups of this latter figure are as follows :—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	7
1 year of age	...	...	322
2 „ „	...	...	323
3 „ „	...	...	356
4 „ „	...	...	395
5-9 years of age	...	...	1853
10-14 years of age	...	...	1208
			<hr/>
Total -			4464
			<hr/>

Only 4 cases of the disease were notified during the year and there was 1 death among these.

The work of immunisation is largely carried out by the School Medical Officers of the County Education Committee.

**Action in regard to Schools.**—The following school was closed during a portion of January and February, 1946 owing to an outbreak of measles.

Harlaston Voluntary Primary.

**Infectious diseases—other than Tuberculosis—notified during  
1946.**

CIVILIANS							
Nature of Case			Totals	Males	Females	Age Distribution	
Pneumonia	...	...	16	11	5	1— 5 years	4
						15—25 „	12
Scarlet Fever	...	...	26	12	14	0— 1 year	1
						1— 5 years	12
						5—10 „	5
						10—15 „	8
Whooping Cough	...		64	32	32	0— 1 year	10
						1— 5 years	37
						5—10 „	16
						15—25 „	1
Erysipelas	...	...	2	...	2	15—25 years	1
						25 and over	1
Diphtheria	...	...	4	2	2	5—10 years	1
						10—15 „	1
						15—25 „	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		1	...	1	15—25 years	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...		2	...	2	1— 5 years	1
						15—25 „	1
Measles	...	...	18	9	9	0— 1 year	1
						1— 5 years	12
						5—10 „	5
NON - CIVILIANS							
Pneumonia	...	...	3	3	...	15—25 years	2
						25 and over	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	4	...	15—25 years	4
Measles	...	...	1	1	...	Age not known	

### Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1946.

PULMONARY			
Males	Ages	Females	Ages
1	39 yrs.	1	32 yrs.
1	46	1	31
1	32	1	30
1	16	1	19
1	33	1	17
1	22	1	4
1	29	1	19
1	19	1	60
1	42		
1	27		
1	27		
11		8	

NON - PULMONARY			
1	1½ yrs.	1	22 yrs.
1	43	1	24
1	11	1	10
3		3	

The following cases of tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatoria during the year —

Windhurst Sanatorium, Sussex	...	1
Prestwood Sanatorium	... ..	1
The Limes, Himley	... ..	1
Woodlands Hospital	... ..	1
Groundslow Sanatorium	... ..	1

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For many years the Rural District Council has operated an Ambulance Service for the use of its inhabitants. The present vehicle is of Austin make and is garaged at the Council's depot in Lichfield.

The service is free to all rural district inhabitants who are in need of transport as stretcher cases to or from hospital, institution, treatment centre, etc., and is also used when called for in cases of road accidents. An arrangement is in operation with the Mid-Staffs Joint Hospital Board for any of the Board's infectious cases

occurring in or near to this district to be transported in the event of their vehicle being out of commission. Arrangements have also been made with the County Council for the transport of local maternity cases to hospital when called for.

A valuable mutual-aid arrangement exists between the Council and several other adjoining districts who operate similar services and this system is frequently made use of.

The Service is fully at the disposal of the Lichfield City Council and many cases are undertaken for them at the normal fees payable by all non-resident users of the vehicle.

The British Red Cross Society, which has a live local detachment also own an ambulance which is garaged near the Council's vehicle, and by arrangement this vehicle is at the disposal of the Council at all times at an agreed scale of charges, and many calls are undertaken by this vehicle on emergency occasions.

The cases dealt with during the year under review are as follows :—

Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	54
Immediate removal to Hospital				...	...	79
Infectious cases	...	...	...	...	...	39
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	38
Other calls	...	...	...	...	...	200

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Total calls - 410

The total mileage run during the year by the Council's vehicle was 11,432.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

*Prepared by Mr. J. G. Rimand, Engineer & Surveyor*

Generally throughout the district all sewage disposal works have shown a reasonably good effluent during the past year. Alrewas, Little Aston, Stonnall and Whittington particularly. All works are being kept in condition in an efficient manner by the workmen employed by you.

**Armitage and Handsacre.**—The disposal works in this parish are inadequate especially in view of the considerable development now taking place in the western portion of the village, where the works are already overloaded. The comprehensive



scheme for the re-sewering of the village and the construction of the new works has been approved by the Ministry of Health and tenders obtained for the carrying out of the work. It is hoped that sanction for this will be received at an early date. In the meantime the existing works are being kept in as satisfactory a condition as can be expected under the circumstances.

**Brindley Heath.**—During the year the private disposal works at Penkridge Bank have been taken over by the Council. These are operating in a satisfactory manner.

**Burntwood.**—The disposal works at Chasetown is adequate and gives a satisfactory effluent, but some difficulty is being experienced at the Peters Lane disposal works in dealing with the increased flow. These works will require enlarging at a very early date. The greatest difficulty that has been experienced is in connection with the disposal of sludge, but measures that will be taken during the coming year will, it is hoped, improve same. The pumping station in Cannock Road, Chase Terrace is working satisfactorily, and during the year the sewer has been extended along the Ogley Hay Road and through Oak Lane and Birch Lane, Chase Terrace to serve the temporary housing site, and to enable the existing properties in that area to be drained. During the coming year the sewer in North Street, Chase Terrace will be completed to serve the permanent housing site and existing properties. A scheme is being prepared for the general improvement of the sewerage system of the parish in order that same may prove adequate for future development.

**Fazeley.**—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer down the Watling Street, under the canal to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place and the main sewer is working to the maximum of its capacity. A scheme is in preparation for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow and for the construction of a disposal works.

**Hammerwich.**—The sewerage pumping station at Triangle has given much trouble during the past year, due to wear on the pumps and the difficulty in obtaining spare parts. This has caused flooding in the pump chamber, but the overhaul of the pumps is now in hand and further trouble with the pumps is therefore not anticipated. The disposal works at Wharf Lane is in a fair condition, but is somewhat affected by subsidence which has necessitated repairs during the past year.

**Kings Bromley.**—During the year a small settlement tank has been constructed as a temporary measure to improve the treatment of sewage. It is hoped that during the coming year a scheme for the re-sewering of the village and the construction of a modern disposal works will be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

**Longdon.**—A scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Health for the provision of sewers in a considerable portion of this parish, and the sewage will be disposed of at the proposed new works at Armitage. Tenders for the carrying out of the scheme have been obtained and it is hoped that sanction for the work to commence will be given at an early date.

**Shenstone.**—A scheme has been prepared for the extension of the sewer along the Chester Road, Stonnall, to improve drainage conditions in that area. It is hoped that the Ministry of Health sanction will be obtained in sufficient time to allow for the work to be carried out during the coming year. The pumping station at Shenstone Wood End has had its pumps overhauled during the year and these are now working in a most satisfactory manner. The disposal works at Shenstone is in a very poor condition, and a scheme is now being prepared for the construction of a new works and the improvement of the sewerage system. It is hoped that this will be completed and submitted to the Ministry of Health during the coming year.

**Streethay.**—These works now that they have been reconstructed are in a reasonable condition and giving satisfactory effluent.

**Whittington.**—The works in this parish are operating in a satisfactory manner, but require modernising. A scheme is under consideration for the reconstruction and enlargement of same with a view to dealing with the sewage from a much larger area.

**Wigginton.**—Conditions in the portion of Wigginton Village which is sewered are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Joint Sewerage Committee. At Hopwas the disposal works having been reconstructed shortly before the war, are operating in a most satisfactory manner.



# Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supplies.**—The parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks Board.

Part of the parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The parishes or parts thereof of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Due to the advantages, which the Council fully exploited, contained in legislation prior to 1944 affecting the laying of water mains in rural districts, this area is very well served in comparison with rural districts in general in the matter of piped water supplies. Every one of its 28 parishes has a system of water mains supplying all but the smaller aggregations of houses.

Immediately following the passing of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944 schemes were prepared designed to supply all the remaining parts of the area to which the Act applied. 11 schemes, of an estimated cost of £14,468 are now with the Ministry of Health for approval.

During the course of the year considerable trouble was experienced by residents in Hints village due to recurring failures in their water supply system. This supply is afforded by spring water being lifted by 2 hydraulic rams to a reservoir from which it gravitates to the properties concerned, numbering some 44 houses and dairy and stock farms. The whole system is aged and the rams are almost worn out and during the past few years have broken down with disturbing regularity. Even when working

they are not capable of providing all the water needed by consumers. This meant of course that as soon as the reservoir emptied the villagers were without a supply of water until the rams were repaired or had made good the deficiency. After prolonged consideration and negotiation the Council finally arranged that the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company afford the Council facilities to secure a supply of water sufficient for the whole of the village needs from a nearby main, and this supply was piped to an Estate main to the reservoir and the ram supply was thus augmented. This work was completed in August, 1946.

The Waterworks Company agreed to this proposal only as a matter of urgency, and as a purely temporary measure pending the sanction of the Ministry of Health to the Council's scheme of Water Mains Extension to the village but before the end of the year sanction was received, and there is little doubt that during 1947 the scheme will be completed.

Mention should also be made in this report to a scheme of supply sanctioned by the Ministry of Health as one of emergency on the joint application of the Council and the Tamworth Rural District Council which was carried out in 1944 and 1945. This scheme consisted of two parts, one a length of 4550 yards of 4" main along the Ashby Road which forms the boundary between the Council's parish of Thorpe Constantine and the Tamworth Rural District, and thence along Clifton Lane in the Council's area, and the second a length of 1226 yards of 2" main forming an extension of the 4" main in Clifton Lane just mentioned. The total cost of this work was upwards of £3,000 and a number of dairy farmers and domestic consumers in both rural districts concerned were thus assured of an adequate water supply.

The water supply to the area, with the notable exception of Hints mentioned earlier herein, and of several small areas covered by the Council's post-war schemes has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during 1946.

The piped supply to the district is derived from ten pumping stations, nine of these belonging to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and one to the Tamworth Joint Waterworks Board. These stations provide supplies to other districts as well as Lichfield rural.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water from service reservoirs and from the piped supplies in various parts of the rural area are made by both concerns.



Information kindly supplied by the Engineer to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company indicates that during the year under review :—

“12 samples from Gentleshaw service reservoir were examined and all were free from coliform bacteria, and out of a total of 104 tap samples taken from scattered points throughout the rural district 100 were free from coliform bacteria, and of the remaining 4 samples one contained aerogenes and the remaining 3 samples contained intermediate bacteria. No sample showed the presence of faecal Bact. coli.

“Owing to the number of supplying stations, the complexities of distribution and the relatively large area involved, wide variations are found in the chemical composition of the water supplies in the area ; thus the hardness of the water averaged during 1946, 11.4 parts per 100,000 at Chase Terrace, 18.3 parts at Hamstall Ridware, 21.1 parts at Little Aston, 22.5 parts at Thorpe Constantine and 27.5 parts at Fradley aerodrome.

“The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action but tap samples are examined periodically for any trace of lead.

“Chlorination is carried out at most of the pumping stations but this is largely precautionary.

“In all cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of service reservoirs, etc., or laying new mains emergency chlorination is performed and special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. The main or service reservoir is not brought back into service until the water has been examined and found satisfactory.”

It is understood that the precautionary measures adopted by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board are substantially the same as the above.

The number of houses supplied by a piped supply direct is estimated at 7,500 with a population of 32,000 estimated. The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes is estimated at 150 with an estimated population of 670. It is not possible at the present time to give this information in respect of each parish with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work of collection of house refuse was considerably extended during the year and is carried out partly by Council's direct labour and partly by contract, the latter predominating. At the close of the year only 2 of the 28 parishes in the district were without a refuse collection service, and these were omitted only because the Council's labour and transport facilities were insufficient to permit them to carry out the work, and despite efforts made by advertising and canvassing no contractor could be found to do the work. As the combined populations of these 2 parishes however was but 802 and they were both of a scattered rural type their omission was not a relatively serious matter. The only omissions in collection in the other 26 parishes were of scattered houses the collection from which would entail an unreasonable expense. This collection work in general consisted of the removal of all dry house refuse, and did not include the clearance of pail closets and privies, this being largely due to the reluctance of contractors to undertake this work. In 8 parishes this work was undertaken, and the remaining parishes were of a rural type in which tenants could reasonably dispose of their faecal refuse without nuisance. The council operate a service whereby private cesspools are emptied on request on payment of a fee of £1 per annum for twice yearly emptying, or 15/- per cesspool for individual emptying except in exceptional cases. A mechanical vehicle is engaged on this work for 1½ days each week.

For some years past it has been the declared intention of the Council to take over at the earliest opportunity the whole of this refuse collection work from contract execution and carry it out by direct labour owing to the many disadvantages of the former method, and it was felt during 1946 that by March 1947 conditions would permit this change to commence. Accordingly in September, 1946 orders were placed for the delivery of a further 2 refuse collection vehicles for delivery in 6 months and it will then be possible for the majority of the work now carried out by contract to be done by direct labour, and also to commence collections in the 2 parishes before mentioned in which no service operates at present. Late in the year, in order that the work should be carried out with the maximum degree of efficiency a foreman was appointed to supervise the collection work and this appointment had the desired effect. At the close of the year the cost of this work carried out by contract was at the rate of £4,681 per annum.

All refuse collected was disposed of by tipping and every endeavour was made to conduct these tips, which are of course numerous, in a manner free from nuisance and this, except in small degree was satisfactorily accomplished.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

As a result of inspections made, largely owing to complaints received from tenants the following defects were remedied in dwelling houses in the district during the year. No large scale inspections were made of properties during the year for purposes of examination as to want of repair owing to the fact of the continued shortage of materials and labour which only permits very essential work of repair to be carried out.

Defective or insufficient closet accommodation ...	75
Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage ...	63
Defective roofs, spoutings, external brickwork, etc.	74
Insufficient or defective light or ventilation ...	11
Dampness ... ..	21
Water Supply ... ..	22
Overcrowding ... ..	1
Offensive accumulations ... ..	57
Defective plaster, floors and other internal defects	132
Defective ashbins, ashpits, etc. ... ..	103
Defective yard paving ... ..	1
Vermin infestation ... ..	25
Miscellaneous ... ..	10

In addition nuisances were abated as follows :—

Refuse tips ... ..	5
Schools ... ..	1
River and Stream pollution ... ..	1
Storage and preparation of foodstuffs premises	4

## HOUSING.

During 1946, 48 new houses were completed by the Council and 11 by private enterprise. At the end of the year 142 new Council houses were in process of construction and 38 by private enterprise.

### Rural Housing Survey.

Good progress was made during the year with this Survey called for by circular of the Ministry of Health in accordance with the recommendation of the Rural Housing sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee.

It is estimated that there are some 6,000 working class houses in the area and at the end of the year 4077 of these had been surveyed. These were classified as follows :—

1. Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	1853
2. Minor defects	...	...	1001
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	...	...	999
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	...		65
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	...	...	159
Total -			4077

### **Squatters.**

In August 1946 information was received that a disused Radiolocation Camp at Drayton Bassett had been occupied by squatters, and it was found that 8 families had occupied 9 huts (one large family having acquired 2 huts).

This camp was in fairly good condition and arrangements which were quickly made after its occupation made it a tolerably habitable series of dwellings at any rate for the time being.

Soon after the occupation of the above camp came news of a further entry into disused huts at a portion of the R.A.F. camp at Brindley Heath. Here 51 families took possession of 44 huts.

Owing to the almost total absence of suitable essential amenities and its remote situation this occupation constituted a grave menace to the health of the occupants. These huts were of normal service type, generally about 60' 0" x 18' 0", together with a number of smaller huts formerly used as sanitary blocks.

The Council gave immediate consideration to the situation but up to the end of the year only such measures of improvement were taken as would safeguard so far as was possible the health of the occupants. The matter was under active consideration at the end of the year.

### **Temporary occupation of Condemned Houses.**

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular dated September, 1940 issued under the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 enabling local authorities to permit persons rendered homeless as a result of enemy action to occupy void condemned



properties which could be put into a state of cleanliness and reasonable repair under a six months renewable licence, the Council issued 14 licences, one of which was not used, and 4 have since been cancelled leaving 9 houses still occupied and re-licenced each six months. Several of these are in very poor shape but it seems that owing to the continued shortage of houses the occupations will have to be continued until the situation eases.

## **POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

Several matters under this heading have been dealt with during the year the most notable of which was a serious pollution of a tributary of the River Trent by trade waste from a newly established manufactory. In addition to the pollution of the stream the waste constituted a serious potential danger to agricultural interests.

Following prolonged negotiations with the company concerned who made every effort to abate the nuisance, the Council referred the matter to the County Council and to the River Trent Catchment Board and as a result of further pressure from these bodies considerable purification work was in hand at the end of the year which it is hoped will satisfactorily remedy the trouble.

## **INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.**

Shortly after this Order came into operation, the Council accepted from the County Council delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 to deal with infestations of rats or mice arising in their district.

All complaints received of such infestation arising on non-agricultural premises were dealt with by the Public Health department staff with the exception of those arising on refuse tips or other sites requiring large scale operations. These latter infestations, which could not be adequately dealt with by the departmental staff were dealt with by annual contracts made with the War Agricultural Executive Committee and this arrangement worked very satisfactorily. It was felt by the Council, however, that more time should be spent on infestation work and for this purpose a part-time rodent operator was appointed who now undertakes all necessary operational work for which the Council is responsible.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

During the year the following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed of in appropriate manner.

Article	Cause for condemnation			Weight.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Tuberculosis	...	...	700 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Tuberculosis	...	...	600 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Fevered	...	...	600 lbs.
Pig Carcase and all organs ...	Fevered	...	...	250 lbs.
1 Calf Carcase and all organs ...	Moribund	...	...	60 lbs.
7 tins Beans ...	Unsound	...	...	7 lbs.
7 lbs. Baking Powder ...	Unsound	...	...	7 lbs.
16 tins Baked Beans ...	Unsound	...	...	16 lbs.
17 tins Evaporated Milk ...	Unsound	...	...	16 lbs.
6 lbs. Barley ...	Contaminated by mice.	...	...	6 lbs.
70 lbs. Rolled Oats. ...	Unpalatable	...	...	70 lbs.
56 lbs. Coffee Beans. ...	Contaminated by Acid	...	...	56 lbs.
10 tins Ox Tongue ...	Unsound	...	...	60 lbs.
2 tins Lamb Tongue ...	Unsound	...	...	2 lbs.
6 tins Stewed Steak ...	Unsound	...	...	6 lbs.
2 tins Sausage Meat ...	Unsound	...	...	3 lbs.
4 boxes Kippers ...	Unsound	...	...	112 lbs.
210 tins Evaporated Milk ...	Unsound	...	...	191 lbs.
3 cases Sultanias ...	Unsound	...	...	90 lbs.
5 cases Dried Peaches ...	Contaminated by Vermin	...	...	150 lbs.
1 tin Chopped Ham ...	Unsound	...	...	6 lbs.
Total Weight —				3008 lbs.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year  
in the COUNTY OF STAFFORD, on the administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE ACT

Premises.			
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power	..	..	...
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power	..	..	...
<b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)			
TOTAL	..	..	...

2.—DEFECTS

Particulars.			
Want of cleanliness	..	..	...
Overcrowding	..	..	...
Unreasonable temperature	..	..	...
Inadequate ventilation	..	..	...
Ineffective drainage of floors		..	...
Sanitary Conveniences	{ insufficient .. unsuitable or defective .. not separate for sexes ..		...
TOTAL	..	..	...



1946, for the RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD,  
 tion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the

## PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Number of			
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
..	13	1	..
..	2	1	..
er-	...	...	..
..	...	..	
..	15	2	...

## FOUND.

Number of Defects.				Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
..	1	1	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	2	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...
..	3	1	..	..

RONALD E. JOHNSON, Medical Officer of Health.







